AN ACT CONCERNING THE TETHERING AND SHELTERING OF DOGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

   Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2022):

(a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley (1) by means of:

   [1: (1) A] a (A) tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction, [(2) a] (B) tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting and tangling, unless a person is in the presence of such dog, [(3) a] (C) coat hanger, choke collar, prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar, halter or device that is not specifically designed or properly fitted for the restraint of such dog, [(4) a] (D) tether that has weights attached or that contains metal chain links more than one-quarter of an inch thick, or [(5) a] (E) tether that allows such dog to reach an object or hazard, including, but not limited to, a window sill, edge of a pool, fence, public
road or highway, porch or terrace railing that poses a risk of injury or
strangulation to such dog if such dog walks into or jumps over such
object or hazard, unless a person is in the presence of such dog; (2) in a
manner that places such dog at adverse risk of injury by another animal;
or (3) for more than fifteen minutes without providing such dog
continuous access to sanitary drinking water in a liquid state. The
provisions of [subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection] subparagraph
(A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be construed to apply
to [: (A)] (i) Any veterinary practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197
that tethers a dog in the course of such veterinary practice, [(B)] (ii) any
exhibition, show, contest or other temporary event in which the skill,
breeding or stamina of such dog is judged or examined, [(C)] (iii) any
exhibition, class, training session or other temporary event in which
such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt a species of wildlife during
the hunting season for such species of wildlife or in which such dog
receives training in a lawful manner to hunt such species of wildlife,
[(D)] (iv) the temporary tethering of a dog at any camping or recreation
area as expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Energy and
Environmental Protection, or [(E)] (v) the temporary tethering of a dog
at a grooming facility in the course of grooming such dog.

(b) [No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationary object or to
a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley,
when] When a weather advisory or warning is issued by local, state or
federal authorities or when outdoor environmental conditions,
including, but not limited to, extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or
hail, pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of [such] a dog based
on such dog's breed, size, age, thickness of coat or physical condition,
[unless tethering is for a duration of not longer than fifteen minutes] no
person shall (1) tether such dog outdoors to a stationary object or mobile
device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley, unless such
tethering is for a duration of not more than fifteen minutes, or (2) fail to
provide such dog adequate shelter for a duration of more than fifteen
minutes, unless such person is in the presence of such dog and outdoors
during such advisory or warning or exposed to such outdoor
environmental conditions.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any protection afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the general statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local ordinance or local regulation.

(d) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time or in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be fined one hundred dollars for the first offense, two hundred dollars for a second offense, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for a third or subsequent offense.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "adequate shelter" means a structure that (1) provides natural or artificial light during daylight hours; (2) offers space adequate for a dog to sit, lie down and turn; (3) is soundly constructed, maintained in good repair and free from accumulated animal waste, debris, precipitation and moisture; (4) contains sanitary drinking water in a liquid state; (5) during cold outdoor environmental conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, (A) is enclosed and insulated to an extent sufficient to permit a dog to maintain normal body temperature, (B) features a solid roof, solid walls and wind-protected opening for entry and exit, (C) is raised off the ground, and (D) contains dry bedding; (6) during extreme heat outdoor weather environmental conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, provides shade and ventilation sufficient to permit a dog to maintain normal body temperature; (7) does not contain a space heater or wood or fuel burning equipment utilized for space heating; (8) is not located under exterior stairs or underneath or inside a motor vehicle; and (9) if constructed using wire or metal chain links, such links are appropriately sized so that a dog's paws will not become caught in them.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
Statement of Purpose:
To establish requirements for the adequate sheltering of dogs and add additional requirements concerning the tethering of dogs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]